

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is dedicated to restoring traditional values in our society. Common sense tells us this means living within our means. This means a balanced Federal budget.

These past few weeks we've finally reached one of the ultimate questions separating conservatives and liberals: Do we want to continue sacrificing our children's chances at achieving the American Dream? Or do we want to do the principled thing and balance our Federal budget?

The President doesn't think our children deserve a chance at this opportunity. My colleagues and I believe that this is wrong. We are willing to do whatever it takes to give them their chance.

To hear my Democrat colleagues talk, one would suspect that they oppose job creation, lower interest rates, and a brighter future for all.

To hear them talk, a balanced Federal budget is little more than a myth, a mirage, a Xanadu.

To hear them talk, saving money for future generations is a bad thing, but we can do it.

Mr. Speaker, this is a nationwide drama with the President and Democrats using our children as the stakes. This is wrong. I believe our Nation deserves better. America is about hope and the potential for prosperity, and America's leadership should lead us in this direction. Let us balance the budget and help restore this hope.

AMERICANS WANT STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

(Mr. OLIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, the public is finally becoming aware of what the antienvironmental extremists in this Congress are doing. Under the Republican leadership, clean water, clean air, and public health are being sold to the highest campaign contributor. While we are struggling to cut the budget, Republicans want to subsidize logging in the Nation's last rain forest. They want to continue the 1872 mining law that gives away millions to private companies, and to allow oil drilling on Alaska's true wilderness.

The American people want strong environmental protection. Instead, the Republicans are jeopardizing the rivers we fish, the beaches we swim in, and the very air we breathe for the benefit of special interests. There truly is a contract with the American environment. That contract is becoming a bill of sale.

DEMOCRATS, START TELLING THE TRUTH

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, in a cynical ploy to distort reality for political gain, the minority party continues to decry the so-called student loan cuts in our budget. It is time to start telling the American people the truth.

My Republican colleagues understand the importance of helping low-income students pay for college. That is why we protect student aid in our budget.

Contrary to the battle cry of the minority, there are no student loan cuts in the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. In fact, total student loan volume will grow from \$24 billion this year to \$36 billion in 2002. And more loans will be available next year than ever before.

Student loans are preserved. No student will be cut off. And no student will be required to pay more for his or her loan.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take a Harvard professor to figure out what's going on. Democrats are trying to regain power by scaring the American people with imaginary spending cuts. This is downright dishonest.

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PRIORITIES FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was not planning to follow the other speaker, and I appreciate the changes that my Republican colleagues have made in the education funding, because they have come a long way. He is right. There have been some funding cuts restored, but the House Republicans do not deserve the credit. The Senate Democrats and Republicans deserve the credit for insisting that House Republicans not decimate education funding.

We have an opportunity over the next few weeks to work bipartisanship on a balanced budget bill. We have a responsibility to make sure the values and the priorities of the American people are maintained and that we balance the budget while protecting education, and Medicare, the environment, and veterans.

Our priorities should be, No. 1, to protect Medicare and Medicaid. We must maintain the high quality of health care we currently enjoy. No. 2, protect students and children. We must maintain current levels of education funding so that students, including those from Aldine High School in my congressional district who are here today from the Close-up program get the education they need to succeed in the 21st century. It is our obligation to make sure that those students have the opportunity to obtain a student loan or Pell grants. They are the future of our country and have a responsibility to make sure they are prepared. Finally, we need to protect tax fairness in the tax system. We do not need to punish

low-income Americans by increasing their taxes.

I hope we will give serious consideration to a bipartisan effort to balance the budget. The time has come to get our fiscal house in order while maintaining the values and priorities most important to the American people.

UNITED STATES BOSNIA POLICY

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon debate a resolution of support for the President's decision to deploy up to 20,000 United States troops into Bosnia.

The President has placed himself and Congress into a lead box. If we decide to support the President, we'll be supporting a costly policy that won't be finished in a year—Bosnia, after all, isn't another Haiti. If Congress rejects the President's decision, our European allies, and others around the world, will come to doubt the United States resolve and commitment. The next time there is a Persian Gulf crisis, they may not answer our call for cooperation.

And so, no matter where we turn, we find our lead box sinking deeper and deeper into the Bosnian bog. This debate won't provide the right answers, nor will it provide an acceptable alternative, since the decision has already been made.

But, I must strongly object to the President's decision. I encourage my colleagues to join me in opposing that decision.

TRICKLE-DOWN ECONOMICS HAS FAILED

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I find wearisome this continual Republican litany that claims only Republicans want to balance the budget and somehow Democrats are opposed to it.

I have served here 17 years. In my early years here Ronald Reagan was President, and by count, no President, with the exception of Franklin Roosevelt, ever got more of his economic policy agreed to by the Congress than did Ronald Reagan. Mr. Speaker, you remember it. It was called trickle-down economics. What happened to the deficit? It tripled. It tripled under Reaganomics.

Under President Clinton, the deficit has come down every year of his Presidency, and this is the first time that has happened since Harry Truman was President. If the Republican balanced budget attempt passed and was put into effect, it would not decrease the deficit in its first 3 years of operation as much as Clinton's economics has reduced the deficit in the last 3 years.